

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01

AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 CIEP-02 AGR-20

STR-08 SIL-01 LAB-06 ACDA-19 IO-14 EA-11 NIC-01 NEA-11

FEA-02 COME-00 INT-08 DRC-01 /222 W

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FOR AF/RA

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TAGS: PFOR, IV

SUBJ: SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND TRENDS REPORT

1. THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED AS ABIDJAN'S CONTRIBUTION FOR THE FEBRUARY AF REPORT TO THE SECRETARY. TELEGRAM WAS USED TO MEET FEBRUARY 15 DEADLINE. FUTURE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE BY POUCH.

2. IVORY COAST AND THE SAHEL. IN THE USG'S CONTINUING CONCERN OVER THE SAHEL, IT SEEMS PERTINENT TO CONSIDER THE ROLE WHICH NEARBY COASTAL STATES LIKE IVORY COAST CAN PLAY IN RELATION TO THE CRISIS. OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE, OF COURSE, IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH IVORY COAST'S CONTINUING ECONOMIC GROWTH PROVIDES AN OUTLET FOR TRADE AND LABOR FROM THE INLAND STATES. THE PURCHASE OF MALIAN LIVESTOCK OR HIRING OF VOLTAN LABOR REPRESENTS, FOR EXAMPLE, AN EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION TO RECOVERY IN THE SAHEL. IN ADDITION, NOT ONLY HAS THE GOIC MADE UNILATERAL GIFTS OF GRAIN AND MONEY TO UPPER VOLTA AND NIGER, BUT ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ENTENTE ACCOUNT FOR THE MAJOR

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PORTION OF THAT ORGANIZATION'S INTERNAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOP-

MENTAL PROJECTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES. THIS IS LIKELY TO BE THE CASE ALSO ONCE THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY GETS UNDERWAY. FINALLY, ABIDJAN SERVES AS AN IMPORTANT CONDUIT FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE DESTINED FOR THE INTERIOR COUNTRIES.

3. TREND - IVORIAN SHIFT TO NON-ALIGNMENT. BY WORD AND BY DEED, IVORY COAST HAS PLACED ITSELF MORE SQUARELY IN THE NON-ALIGNED WORLD THAN EVER BEFORE, A POSITION WHICH IS LIKELY TO ENDURE. WILLING IN THE PAST TO TAKE AN INDEPENDENT, FREQUENTLY PRO-WESTERN POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL AND EVEN AFRICAN ISSUES, THE GOIC APPEARS TO HAVE DECIDED THAT IT HAS MORE TO GAIN BY BEING A MEMBER OF "THE NON-ALIGNED CLUB" AND ABIDING BY ITS RULES THAN BY REMAINING OUTSIDE IT. THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS ON MARGINAL ISSUES SUCH AS THE SEATING OF THE PRG AT A CONFERENCE AND THE NON-RECOGNITION OF COMMUNIST STATES, BUT ON THOSE SUBJECTS OF DIRECT CONCERN TO THE CLUB--ONES TOUCHING AFRICAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST--THE IVORIAN VOICE SEEMS LIKELY NOW TO JOIN THAT OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS. THIS PROSPECT COULD, OF COURSE, TO SOME DEGREE BE ALTERED IF IVORY COAST AND OTHER MODERATE STATES SOUTH OF THE SAHARA FEEL BADLY LET DOWN BY ARAB POLICY ON OIL PRICING.
ROOT

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